

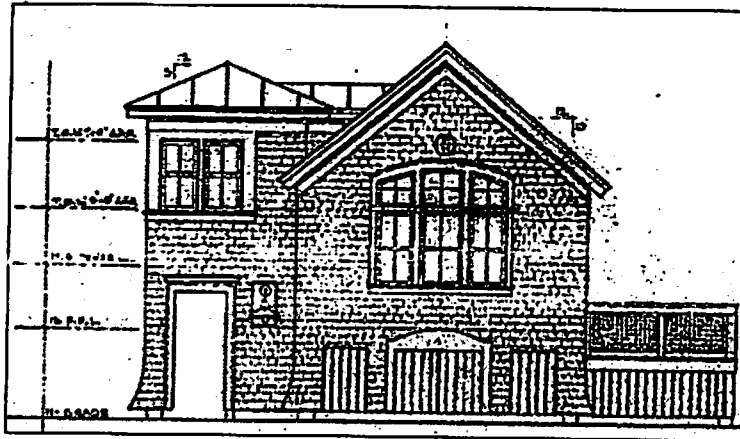
New Building Planned for Entrance to Duxbury Beach

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

The Duxbury Beach Reservation plans to demolish the existing Harbormaster guard shack and build a new wildlife education building at the entrance to Duxbury beach.

Maggie Kearney, President of the Duxbury Beach Reservation, told selectmen Monday night that the new building will serve as a public education center and headquarters for the endangered species officer who monitors the piping plovers, a federally protected bird that nests on the beach. It will also provide storage for the harbor-master's all-terrain vehicles, the beach wheelchair and other equipment. The Duxbury Beach Reservation owns the beach and leases it to the town.

The two-story building will be 25 feet long by 16 feet wide and be handicapped



The west elevation of the new wildlife education center that the Duxbury Beach Reservation plans to build at the entrance to the beach.

accessible via a long ramp that will wrap around two sides of the building, said Reservation Vice President Shawn Dahlen. The base of the building will sit 4 1/2 feet above the ground in order for the ATV storage garage to be underneath it. There will be an attached 8 1/2 foot square section that will serve as the office for the endangered species officer.

Duxbury architect Julia Chuslo donated her services to design the building.

The wildlife education center will have display cases showing various elements of the beach, such as the endangered shore birds that nest there and a profile of the beach showing the nesting sites, said Kearney. The view will be "spectacular," said Kearney, because the building will have windows on all four sides.

There will not be any bathrooms in the new building. Instead, Kearney said the

Reservation may build a small structure at the first beach crossover to hold two portapotties and place another two portable toilets in the overflow parking lot. The Reservation is also hoping to provide handicapped accessible portapotties, said Kearney.

The center may use solar energy for electricity and there will not be any air conditioning, Kearney added. Also, the Reservation is planning to eliminate the utility poles and place the electrical service for the building underground.

The wildlife center is possible because of a large donation from Anna Millar, in memory of her husband Robert, a Reservation Trustee, who used to walk the beach daily. Anna Millar died soon after she made the gift.

"What a nice tribute," said Selectman Betsy Sullivan. "It will be a very attractive building."

Dahlen said the Reservation has applied for a building permit and had a hearing with the Conservation Commission Tuesday night.

Construction should begin in a month and the building should be completed by the end of summer, according to Dahlen.